

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 L-02 SS-15 H-01 FRB-03 OMB-01

TAR-01 SP-02 AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07

IO-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 STR-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-01

CEA-01 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-01 CG-00 COA-01 DLOS-03

FTC-01 /080 W

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R 250932Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8245

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PASS FMC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, JA

SUBJ: US/JAPAN SHIPPING ISSUES

1. DEP ASST SEC WALDMAN HAD BRIEF DISCUSSION OF SHIPPING ISSUES WITH MOT SHIPPING BUREAU OFFICIALS (HAMADA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND TOMITA, DIRECTOR, OVERSEAS DIVISION) ON FEB 25. ON QUESTION OF UNCTAD CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LINER CONFERENCES TOMITA SAID GOJ WAS STILL STUDYING MATTER AND HAD NO INTENTION OF SIGNING CODE IN NEAR FUTURE. HE SAID MOT UNDERSTANDS THAT CERTAIN LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES INTEND TO SIGN BUT RESERVE POSITIONS ON IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF CODE AND INDICATED THAT IF THERE ARE NUMBER OF SUCH RESERVATIONS BY IMPORTANT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IT WOULD BECOME EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR JAPAN TO SIGN CODE AT ALL. IN THIS CONNECTION HE REFERRED TO BRAZIL'S INTENTION TO RESERVE ON FREIGHT RATE PROVISION, WHICH IS ONE OF CODE'S MAJOR PROVISIONS.

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2. TOMITA RAISED QUESTION OF U.S. FEDERAL MARITIME

COMMISSION'S INTENTION REGARDING APPROVAL OF REVENUE POOLING ARRANGEMENT PROPOSED BY JAPANESE CARRIERS ON JAPAN/US WEST COAST TRADES. HE SAID MRS. BENTLY HAD EARLIER PROMISED TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO HAVE ARRANGEMENT APPROVED BY FEB 1, BUT COMMISSION HAD NOT YET TAKEN ACTION. HE THOUGHT FMC MIGHT BE DELAYING APPROVAL UNTIL ARRANGEMENT COULD BE WORKED OUT FOR PARTICIPATION OF U.S. CARRIERS ON BASIS OF 50-50 CARGO SHARING. HE SAID MOT WOULD NOT PRESS FOR APPROVAL OF POOLING AGREEMENT WHILE CARRIERS DISCUSS JAPANESE COUNTER-PROPOSAL FOR 60/40 INITIAL SPLIT, WITH U.S. PERCENTAGE INCREASING BY PERCENTAGE POINT EACH YEAR UNTIL 50/50 RATIO REACHED. HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT MOT WAS BECOMING CONCERNED OVER FMC INACTION IN APPROVING REMAINING TERM OF EAST COAST SPACE CHARTER AGREEMENT. NOTING THAT CURRENT FMC APPROVAL WILL EXPIRE ON MARCH 3, HE INDICATED THAT GOJ WOULD MAKE DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION ON THAT QUESTION UNLESS EXTENSION IS FORTHCOMING VERY SHORTLY.

3. IN FURTHER CONNECTION WITH MATTERS DISCUSSED AT FMC/MOT MEETING IN SEPT 1974, MR. WALDMAN ASKED ABOUT STATUS OF GOJ CONSIDERATION OF 15 PERCENT SPREAD BETWEEN CONTRACT AND NON-CONTRACT CONFERENCE FREIGHT RATES. TOMITA SAID JAPANESE FAIR TRADE COMMISSION (FTC) HAD ASKED FOR DATA ON CARRIERS' REVENUES AND EXPENSES AND THAT FREIGHT CONFERENCES HAVE AGREED TO PROVIDE SUCH DATA ON "INDEX" BASIS. AS SOON AS THIS MATERIAL IS AVAILABLE MOT WILL TRANSMIT IT TO FTC AND ASK FOR EARLY DECISION ON RATE SPREAD. HOWEVER, HE SAID FTC IS CURRENTLY OCCUPIED WITH PROBLEM OF AMENDMENT OF ANTIMONOPOLY LEGISLATION AND HE WAS NOT SURE HOW SOON IT COULD TAKE UP DUAL RATE ISSUE. HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT JAPANESE SHIPPERS COUNCIL WAS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO 15 PERCENT SPREAD AND THAT HE PROPOSED TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH COUNCIL IN EFFORT TO GET THEM TO DROP THEIR OPPOSITION. MR. WALDMAN ASKED AND HAMADA AGREED THAT MOT WOULD KEEP USG INFORMED OF PROGRESS ON THIS ISSUE.

HODGSON

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Message Attributes

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